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REPORT NO. 2-324-54 WDCS-- INTELLIGENCE REPORT I.D. NO. 1265212
SUBJECT: Arrival of Arg. Soviet Military Attaches, and Reception at Soviet Embassy
FROM: Col. J. J. Buena Vista REFERENCES: IR-278-54 and Air report IR-197-54
EVALUATION: 4-1 DATE OF INFORMATION: 2-6 NOV 54 DATE OF REPORT: 17 NOV 1954
INCL. _____ PREPARED BY: Col. J. J. Tyson, AFMA SOURCE: Personal Observation

SUMMARY OF SID REPORT:

1. The turnout of Argentine military to the Soviet embassy reception of 6 November 1954 in honor of the Revolution was merely token, with two officers from each service representing their respective Ministries. No generals were present.
2. The two new Soviet Military Attaches, who had arrived 21 October 1954, made their debut at the function. Report includes comments on these officers.

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ARRIVAL OF NEW SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHES, AND RECEPTION AT SOVIET
EMBASSY

1. The evening of 6 November 1954, reporting officer and the Assistant Air and Navy Attaches accompanied the U.S. Ambassador to a reception at the Soviet Embassy residence in honor of the Revolution. The turn-out of Argentine military was token, and no more. Two officers (Military Attache Liaison Officers and Aides) from each of the Services (Army, Navy and Air) represented their respective Ministers. No generals were present, in contrast to last year's reception when a number attended. Besides the U.S., Great Britain, Egypt, Bolivia, Uruguay and Mexico were represented by Military Attaches.

2. Two new Russian Military Attaches, Colonel Frokofi ROMANENKO and Major Constantino MEDKOV, who had arrived 21 October, made their debut at this function. Both speak English and appeared quite willing to be friendly with U.S. Attaches. Reporting officer had met Colonel ROMANENKO at the office of the Foreign Liaison Officer on 2 November 1954 when the Russian was officially reporting to the Argentine Army, accompanied by PEROV, the until-then Acting Attache. ROMANENKO stated that he had learned English in school, and had become accustomed to speaking it with American officers in Iran in 1942-1943. He was also smoking Camel cigarettes. He appeared friendly, and before leaving stated he wanted to talk with reporting officer again soon.

COMMENT: Offhand, both of these officers appear more approachable than previous Soviet Attaches to Argentina, particularly Colonel ROMANENKO.

It appears odd that both these officers and the Naval Attache all speak good English. Colonel ROMANENKO apparently does not speak Spanish very well. This is a change from the usual custom in that heretofore all the Attaches spoke Spanish fluently prior to coming here.

Colonel ROMANENKO stated he had not visited Colonel Miguel VILLAFRANCA, Argentine Military Attache to Russia, before departing, as the latter had been ill in the hospital for some time.

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